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# FIERCE ENGAGEMENTS ALONG BATTLE LINE; NO MATERIAL ADVANTAGE TO EITHER SIDE

## HISTORIC RHEIMS IS LADEN WITH RUINS BY GERMAN SHELLS

Famous Cathedral and Other Ancient Buildings Are Destroyed.

FIERCE BOMBARDMENT IS ALMOST CEASELESS

Greatest Loss From Historical and Artistic View of Present War.

## NOTE OF INDIGNANT PROTEST

Will Be Addressed to All Powers Against "Act of Odious Vandalism."

BRUSSELS, September 20 (P. M.).—The Minister of the Interior, Louis J. Malvy, announced today that the famous cathedral of Rheims had been destroyed, and other historic and public buildings either laid in ruins or damaged by German artillery. Coupled with this announcement was a statement that the government had decided to address to all the powers a note of indignant protest against "this act of odious vandalism."

Structures, the minister said, which had been destroyed or ruined included, in addition to the cathedral, the twelfth century church of St. Jacques, the fifteenth century archbishop's palace and the city hall, dating from the seventeenth century.

M. Malvy said official reports revealed that the cathedral was in flames today, the burning having begun yesterday as a result of the ceaseless bombardment. He was officially stated that the destruction of these historic buildings indicated the Germans considered their situation desperate.

If the reported destruction of the cathedral of Rheims is true, it is the greatest loss from an historical and artistic view of the present war. Since the cathedral was begun in 1211, and Robert de Courcy in 1231 and continued at intervals down to the fifteenth century. It has been described as "the most perfect example of grandeur and grandeur of Gothic style in existence."

The west front, which was begun about 1241-42 is said to be the most beautiful structure produced during the middle ages with its deeply recessed triple portal, and the wonderful rose window that surmounts it. This window, more than forty feet in diameter, was reported in cable dispatches yesterday as having been destroyed by a shell. It was in the cathedral of Rheims that the successive Kings of France from Philip II. to Charles X. were crowned, and it was there the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, before the great altar, and the coronation of Charles VII. which marked the fulfillment of his vision.

The elaborate richness of the sculpture, the stained glass and statues are not mentioned in any existing structure.

In the north transept over the sacristy was a clock said to have been in existence since the twelfth century. Cathedral treasures were one wonderful church plates of the early centuries, reliquaries containing a thumb of the Holy Crown and the skull of St. Denis, and countless treasures, some dating from the fifteenth century.

In a chapel attached to the vestry was a rare collection of sculpture in the famous sarcophagus of Deshayes, the Roman prefect of Rheims, who was converted to Christianity in 256.

The archbishop's palace, also reported as destroyed, is a double chapel, dating from about 1220. When the monarchs of France were housed at their coronations, and there Jean of Artois lodged when he came to Rheims to crown the Holy Virgin, the palace adjoins the cathedral and about a quarter of a mile to the southwest in the Church of St. Jacques, also reported destroyed or seriously damaged in the bombardment.

Another church of great antiquity and interest is that of St. Remi, but no mention of its fate is made.

The Hotel de Ville, also said to have been ruined or badly damaged by shell fire, was commenced in 1524, but not completed until the present century. It contained a fine library, with hundreds of volumes of manuscripts, antiquities and a good collection of paintings.

Aside from these notable monuments, a thorough shelling or conflagration might destroy many lesser buildings that have made the ancient city a place of great historic interest. Some of its old houses date from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and here and there still exist remains of the Roman occupation.

## JOFFRE IS IDOL OF PEOPLE

Unknown Admirer Places Flowers on Altar of His Deceased Father

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

PARIS, September 20.—The extent to which General Joffre is being idolized and emotional as the French people easily imagined. How Paris would acclaim him if he appeared in the capital at this time. Yet a profound admirer of the French commander-in-chief did something even more delicately touching today at Autell, where the general has a simple, but pretty, villa.

In the absence of occupants, the doors of the house are hermetically sealed. The French are running wild over the veranda, but this morning there was found hanging on the railings a large bouquet of carnations, dahlias and wild flowers. An unknown hand had placed it there during the night.

## FINAL PROHIBITION RALLY

City Auditorium, tonight, Hon. Carlton McCarthy will preside, and Rev. George W. McBride, D. D., will deliver address on "Richmond's Duty." All cordially invited.

## RULES WILL BE ENFORCED

Marconi Company Must Find Its Remedy in Court.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, September 20.—Officials of the Navy Department today took issue with Vice-President Bottomley, of the Marconi Company, on his protest against the right of the department to dictate to the wireless concern.

In the absence of Secretary Daniels one of his aids said that the wireless situation is not under the jurisdiction of the department, but that for the present the rules laid down by the department are being enforced.

The navy officials say that if the Marconi officials wish to oppose the supervision of the department, their remedy is in the courts, but that for the present the rules laid down by the department will be enforced.

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## RETREAT AT SEVERAL POINTS

German Offensive Movement in Eastern Russia Is Checked.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

PETERSBURG, September 20.—The German offensive movement in Eastern Russia has been checked, according to an official announcement issued today. The Germans have retreated at several points. The Saxon cavalry, which hurriedly left France to assist the Germans in the campaign against Russia, has lost heavily. The Russians captured many guns, including thirty-six howitzers.

The Russians have completely cut off General Danke's army, which forms the extreme left of the new battle front from Przemyel to Czowek. It was reported. This has prevented his junction with the forces under the command of General von Aulenberg. While General Danke is retreating in a desperate attempt to reach the Carpathian mountains, the Russians are advancing from Sandomir in an endeavor to cut off that retreat as well.

## GERMAN CRUISER SUNK

The Carmania, Former Tugboat Line, Sunk Near New York and Liverpool.

LONDON, September 20 (9:57 P. M.).—The official press bureau made the following announcement tonight: "The Carmania, armed as an auxiliary cruiser, and sunk a German armed merchant cruiser, either the Cap Trafalgar or the Berlin, off the east coast of South America."

The survivors of the German ship were rescued by a British ship. The Carmania had nine men killed and twenty-six wounded.

The Carmania, a Cunard liner, plied between New York and Liverpool, until taken over by the British government and converted into a warship. She was reported last as ready to sail from Liverpool September 19, for Cap Trafalgar was a ship of 9,534 tons. She sailed from Montevideo August 22 for Las Palmas.

## FRENCH AVIATOR CAPTURED

Chevalier Mistakenly German Forces for British Troops.

BERLIN, September 20 (by way of Rotterdam and London, 11:36 A. M.).—According to a letter from the front, the French aviator, M. Chevalier, was captured September 19. He was taken very closely to the Germans, whom he mistook for British, and his machine was shot down. The aviator denied his identity. He had as a passenger an officer of the general staff who carried important maps. The aeroplane was provisioned with bombs. Neither Chevalier nor his passenger was wounded.

General Steinhilber, possessor of the "Iron Cross" since 1870, was killed September 15. Another officer killed was Commander Count Detlev Rantzau.

## JAPANESE REPULSE GERMANS

Encounter Takes Place About Thirty Miles North of Klauchau.

TOKYO, September 20 (6:20 P. M.).—Lieutenant-General Kato, commander-in-chief of the Japanese armies moving on Klauchau, reports that he met and repulsed a German detachment September 19.

The official announcement of the skirmish says the troops, after landing at Laesbau Bay, forty miles north of Klauchau, moved southward about ten miles, and encountered the enemy in a fortified position at Wang Koliang, thirteen miles east of Tsimo.

The Germans used machine guns, but at sunset, it is said, abandoned their position in a critical condition, leaving behind supplies and equipment. The Japanese suffered no casualties in this fight, but three were killed while their cavalry were reconnoitering.

## NO REGARD FOR PATRIOTISM

Mrs. Dodge Attacks Action of Congressional Suffrage Union.

WASHINGTON, September 20.—The declaration of war by the Congressional Suffrage Union against all Democratic candidates for Congress in the States where women vote occasioned this afternoon a slashing attack upon the union by Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge, president of the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage.

The union, according to Mrs. Dodge, "has no regard for patriotism," and because of petty resentment against the party in power for not having made woman suffrage a national institution would like "to destroy able statesmen" and deprive the public of the services of eminent men.

## WATT'S TERM NEARS END

Taylor May Succeed Him as Chief Naval Constructor.

WASHINGTON, September 20.—Although Chief Constructor Richard M. Watt's term as chief of the naval bureau of construction and repairs expires October 2, the secretary of the Navy has not decided that he will resign. This case applies his policy of one-term-and-out for bureau chiefs. The secretary has adhered strictly to that policy thus far in all cases where the terms of the bureau chiefs have expired during his administration, but he may depart from the rule in this case. If Chief Constructor Watt is relieved, it is said, Naval Constructor D. W. Taylor will be appointed to succeed him.

## LIKE CONQUERORS, FORCES OF ALLIES GO INTO BATTLE

Return From Valley of Death With Spirit Fanned to Fierce Fury.

## "TERRIBLE PLACE" ALONG RIVER BANKS

Exhaustion, Rather Than Shot and Shell, Cause Delays and Advance.

## GREAT CONFLICT NEARS END

Rages Without Intermission, Day and Night, Along Whole Line.

LONDON, September 20 (9:45 P. M.).—A correspondent of the Times sends the following dispatch from behind the British lines dated September 19: "The great battle draws to a close. Exhaustion rather than shot and shell has wrought a terrible peace along the river banks—a peace which my adherents of the last few days lead me to believe may be the herald of victory. That, at least, is how I read the situation. I have seen our troops and the French go into battle these last days, not as worn and weary men, but as conquerors. I have seen them return wounded from this valley of death with the conquering spirit fanned to fierce fury.

"The scene on the river at night was magnificent and appalling. The whole valley was swept by a blaze of searchlights from darkness until dawn. Great beams moved up and down, scorching the skies and trenches and heights, and dark forms lying along the ridges.

"Here and there a flash revealed the bursting of a shell. Over all rolled the perpetual thunder of the guns, a fierce and thrilling accompaniment.

WORK OF ENGINEERS

"An incessant rain, too, flooded the great river, making the work of the engineers a veritable task of Hercules.

"This was a battle to the last ounce of strength, in which man and horse poured out their whole lives in a few frenzied moments. Day and night the combat raged without intermission, ebbs and flows like the tide, seething like a cauldron and into the brave survivors of the German side, who were rescued by a British ship. The Carmania had nine men killed and twenty-six wounded.

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## BOTH CLAIM VICTORY ON EVE OF ELECTION

Local Government Men Say They Will Carry Eight Congressional Districts.

## EXPECT MAJORITY OF 20,400

Anti-Saloon League Issues No Figures, but Claims All Except This Congressional District and State by 40,000.

In a statement issued last night by the Virginia Association for Local Self-Government, the claim is made that State-wide prohibition will be defeated at the polls tomorrow by a majority of 20,400 votes. The estimate, it was stated, is based upon detailed reports received from practically every voting precinct in the State, and is made with full allowance for overstatements and errors.

According to this statement local option will triumph over State-wide prohibition in every congressional district except two. The Fifth and Third Congressional Districts are claimed by the largest minorities, while the First and Tenth Districts are conceded to the prohibitionists by narrow majorities.

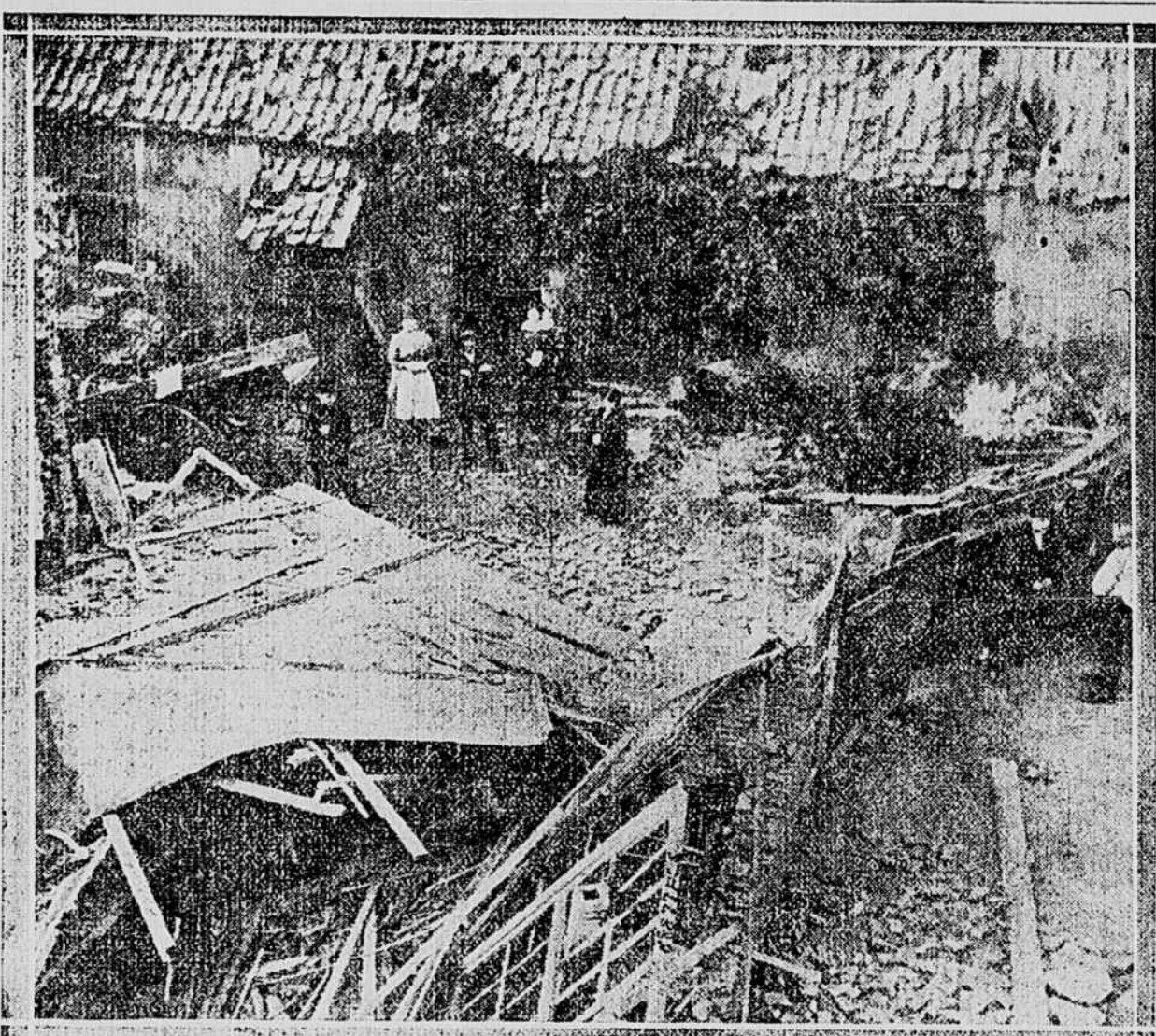
## CLAIM EIGHT OUT OF TEN DISTRICTS

The statement follows: "Local option will win at the polls tomorrow by an overwhelming majority. The campaign just closed has developed the fact that a very large majority of the voters of Virginia are in favor of local self-government and home rule. The campaign with its vilification and abuse inaugurated by State-wide prohibition has been to their undoing."

(Continued on Second Page.)

## FALL FASHION SHOW

Richmond Shops SEPT. 23-24-25



AFTER THE SECOND ZEPPELIN RAID AT ANTWERP. A view of the wreckage just outside of the city of Antwerp, caused by bombs dropped from the German Zeppelins on their second raid on the Belgian city.

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## RAPS HIGH OFFICIALS WHO STRADDLE ISSUE

Glass Refers Pointedly to Those Who Lack Courage to Express Their Views.

## PRaises GOVERNOR STUART

Does Not Agree With His Position, but Admires His Frank Announcement—Says Others Are Afraid to Say So—They Stand.

Two hundred people rallied to the City Auditorium yesterday afternoon to hear prohibition addresses by Congressman Carter Glass, of Lynchburg, and Attorney-General John Garland Pollard. Fully one-third of the audience were women. The meeting was called to order by Rev. James Cannon, Jr., superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of Virginia, who presented R. Walton Moore, of Fairfax County, as the presiding officer of the afternoon.

Arguments were levelled chiefly against the claims of the local option forces that State-wide prohibition would seriously increase the tax burden, encourage illicit liquor selling, and violate the principles of personal liberty and local self-government. The audience was an appreciative one, and cheered the fiery passages without stint.

"I am here because I am not afraid to let the people of Virginia know what I stand," said Congressman Glass in his opening remarks. "Many of my best friends advised me that I should leave my political career to leave the public discussion of this great question to other people. If my political career in the future cannot be made consistent with the performance of my plain duty at this time, it holds no enticement for me."

## RAPS HIGH OFFICIALS WHO STRADDLE ISSUE

Mr. Glass referred pointedly to men holding positions of high public trust who lacked the courage to give expression to their views on a question which is regarded by the whole State as one of great moment. The audience discerned in the reference a pertinent present-day application, and applauded the Congressman's remarks with vigor.

"I have not been able to sympathize with the attacks that have been made upon Governor Stuart for announcing his opposition to the State-wide law. I am glad that our Governor has the courage to give public expression to his convictions. While I lament the fact that his convictions on this question are wrong, I have infinitely more respect for such a man than for those other men holding high public office who lack the courage to take the people that elected them into their confidence."

Mr. Glass was inclined to consider seriously the claim of the local option forces that State-wide prohibition would increase taxes. Although eminent State authorities deny that an increase in taxes will follow the enactment of the prohibitory law, said the Congressman, he was willing to admit for the sake of argument that an increase in taxation would follow.

## STATE TAXES RAISED

"I had rather have the State of Virginia collect the \$700,000 which it is claimed we will lose from liquor licenses, from the taxpayers of Virginia, and hand it over to the liquor dealers of the State, let us increase our taxes, then. We who are against the saloon will gladly bear our share of the increased taxation."

(Continued on Second Page.)

## FINAL PROHIBITION RALLY

City Auditorium, tonight, Hon. Carlton McCarthy will preside, and Rev. George W. McBride, D. D., will deliver address on "Richmond's Duty." All cordially invited.

## URGED TO VOTE AGAINST STATE-WIDE PROHIBITION

Citizens of Richmond Plead With Liberty-Loving People of Virginia to Adhere to Local Option.

## INCREASED TAXATION CERTAIN

Assault on Principle of Local Self-Government Should Not Be Contemplated With Indifference—Tobacco Interests Exposed to Danger.

We, the undersigned citizens of Richmond, profoundly impressed with the importance of maintaining in full force our present local option laws, do respectfully but earnestly urge our fellow-citizens who concur in this view to go to the polls Tuesday next, September 22d, and vote against State-wide prohibition.

The experience of a large number of States of the Union conclusively demonstrates that the cause of temperance is subserved more efficiently by local option than State-wide prohibition.

Further, it should be constantly borne in mind that the great and fundamental principle of local self-government is involved in this election, and that the substitution of State-wide prohibition for local option would prove a most serious if not indeed a fatal blow to that principle.

No free and liberty-loving people like those of Virginia should contemplate with indifference any assault on this foundation stone of popular government. The only safe safeguard of right and justice in times of stress and danger, it is the strength and glory of the Anglo-Saxon theory of government. Surely it should not be destroyed in this State-wide movement, and that the substitution of State-wide prohibition for local option would prove a most serious if not indeed a fatal blow to that principle.

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GET YOUR Call to-day for replies to your ANSWERS Sunday Want Ads. THE TIMES-DISPATCH

## ARTILLERY DUELS BEING CARRIED ON BY BOTH ARMIES

Each Hopes to Compel Evacuation of the Enemy From Strong Positions.

## ADVANTAGE FIRST WITH ONE, THEN WITH OTHER

French Official Reports Claim Slight Progress on the Left.

## MATTERS EQUAL AT RHEIMS

Losses in Separate Attacks and Counter-Attacks Probably Enormous.

## REPORTS INDICATE HEAVY FIGHTING

Reports differ as to the progress of the great battle in Northern France between the allied British and French armies and Germany. Some indicate that there is extremely heavy fighting, while others tell of great masses of troops lying in flooded trenches, many of them utterly exhausted.

At some points, at least, fierce engagements have been fought, with the tide flowing first in one direction and then the other. The allies have won a position here, and the Germans have gained one there. But all reports, official and otherwise, agree that there is much fighting yet to be done before any material advantage can be claimed by either side.

"The British in the trenches say, 'We are slowly beating them back.'"

The French official statement declares that, although furiously counter-attacked by superior forces, and obliged to yield some ground, this was regained almost immediately.

Berlin officially announces that the French and British forces have been obliged to take the defense in the trenches positions, and that, therefore, the result of the German attacks are slow.

Interesting information has been given out by the British Admiralty regarding British successes and misfortunes in various waters. The British merchant cruiser Carmania has sunk a German merchant cruiser, supposed to be either the Cap Trafalgar or the Berlin, off the coast of South America, but the German cruiser Koenigsberg has disabled the British cruiser Carmania, while the latter was overhauling her in the vicinity of Zanzibar Harbor, killing twenty-five men and wounding more than three times that number, and the German cruiser Emden has sunk six British merchant steamers in the Bay of Bengal.

In fighting around Rheims, the matter of greatest general interest has been the destruction of the famous cathedral, one of the most noted structures in the world, dating back to the thirteenth century, which is reported to have first been pierced by many German shells, and then to have burst in flames.

Against this destruction of the cathedral, the French government has decided to send through diplomatic channels a protest to all the powers.

There has been a review of the island of Halk by the Sultan of the Turkish fleet, including the former German cruisers Breslau and Goeben, after which the most proceed to Constantinople for coal.

Italy, according to reports from Rome, has more than a half-million men under arms.

An official statement from Petrograd says the Russians are bombarding the strong Austrian fortress of Przemyel. It also reports the repulse of the Austrians with heavy losses near Harnow and Raniehow, in Galicia.

LONDON, September 20 (9:55 P. M.).—One of the fiercest battles of all times, which has been raging across Northern France for a week past, with the fighting now being on one side and then on the other, remains undecided.

The two great armies which have been fighting for a month, with few, if any intermissions, have dug themselves into intrenchments on rivers and mountain ranges on a front reaching from the Oise to the Meuse, and thence southward along the Franco-German frontier.

Artillery duels such as never before have been seen are being waged with the hope of compelling the evacuation of the strongly held positions, with occasional successes to the opposing sides, while the infantry, in the face of a galling fire, have charged right up to the guns, only to make their opponents give way slightly, or to be repulsed with great losses.

Fighting has been fiercest on the left bank of the River Oise, in the vicinity of Rheims, the famous cathedral of which has been set afire by German shells, and between that town and the Argonne ridge, it has been given and taken all the time.

French official reports again claim slight progress on the French left, and that the allies again have repulsed strong frontal attacks between Craonne and Rheims.

## MATTERS EQUAL AT RHEIMS

Around Rheims itself, matters have been about equal, on the one hand, have recaptured the heights of Brimont, while the French have taken the defenses of La Houppele.

The French also have scored a success between Rheims and the Argonne,